

positioning the steel sheet in the tool;
heating the steel sheet to an austenitizing temperature;
hot forming a steel sheet product out of the steel sheet
while using the tool;

hardening at least a portion of the steel sheet product to a
hardness;

C¹
C¹ Cont'd
producing at least one mild area in the steel sheet product,
the mild area having a hardness substantially less than the
hardness of the [at least a] hardened portion of the steel sheet
product; and

forming the at least one mild area in the steel sheet
product.~

²
12. (Amended) The method of making a sheet steel product
according to Claim [11] ¹~~28~~ wherein said step of forming the at
least one mild area in the steel sheet product comprises removing
at least a section of the at least one mild area in the steel
sheet product.~

Please add the following newly presented claims.

C²
18 -- 28. A method of making a sheet steel product comprising
the steps of:

providing a steel sheet of a given size;
providing a tool for holding the steel sheet;
positioning the steel sheet in the tool;
heating the steel sheet to an austenitizing temperature;

[2]

21